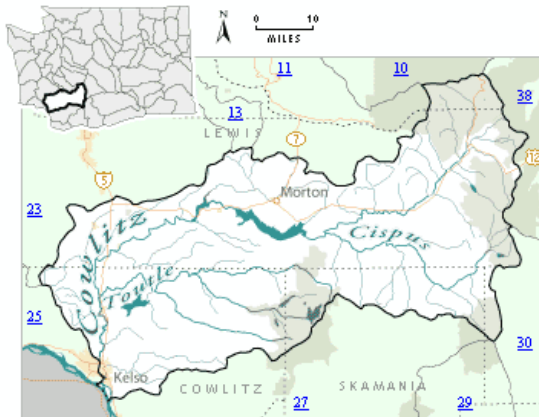


## Cowlitz Basin - WRIA #26

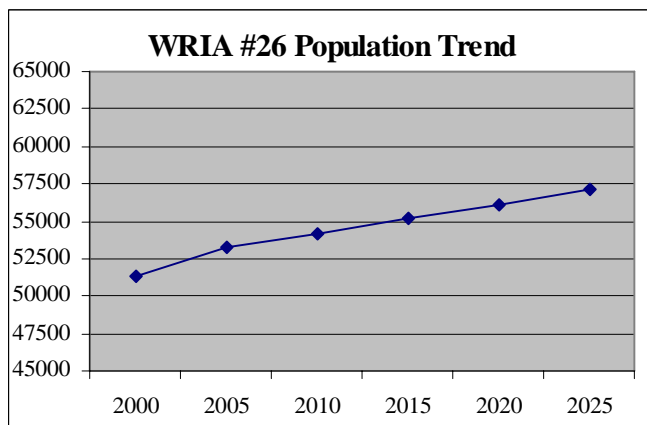


### Watershed Description

**WRIA #26** encompasses nearly 1,594,790 acres. The upper watershed is part of the Cascade ecoregion. The lower portion is in the Puget Lowlands. Glaciated valleys, ranging from U-shaped to steep, dissected mountains. Streams are high to medium gradient. Soils are typically deep clay loam, silt loam, gravelly loam, and cobbly loam. Potential natural vegetation is western hemlock, western red cedar, Pacific silver fir, some Douglas-fir, and some noble fir. Average annual rainfall is 72 inches per year. The mean low/high temperatures are 26/41° in winter and 44/78° in summer.

### Population

There are approximately 52,298 people living in the Cowlitz Basin. The primary population centers are Kelso and Castle Rock. The majority of people live in unincorporated areas. The population graph reflects the combined projected population of those counties located within the watershed (Office of Financial Management population projections).



Counties	% of basin
Lewis	57%
Cowlitz	27%
Skamania	13%
Pierce	2%
Yakima	1%

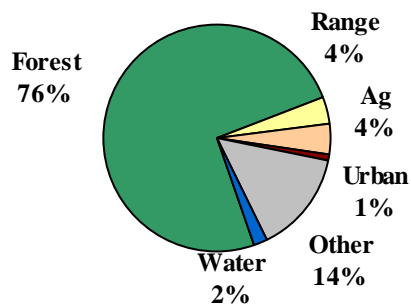
Tribal Reservation Lands in WRIA #26
none

**Land ownership** for WRIA #26 includes federal, state, local, tribal, and private lands. Data was derived from the Public Lands Survey by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Land Ownership	Acres	Proportion
Federal	685,510	43.0%
State	78,319	4.9%
Local	120	< .01%
Tribal	94	< .01%
Private	829,745	52.0%

**Land use** in the Cowlitz Basin is mainly forestry and agriculture related uses. The general type of known land-use activities<sup>1</sup> within the watershed is graphed according to the percentage of its occurrence.

#### Land use in the Cowlitz Basin




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<sup>1</sup> Category "other" may include perennial ice/snow, bare rock/sand/clay, quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, transitional, barren, and/or wetland areas.

**The primary towns and cities in WRIA #26 include** Kelso, Castle Rock, Morton, Toledo, and Mossyrock.

### **Legislative and Congressional Districts**

To determine your region's legislative or congressional district, see:

<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

To determine **Latitude/Longitude coordinates**, see:

<http://www.topozone.com/>

(Make sure you set the button on the bottom of the page to D/M/S - hold the cursor over a spot on the map and the coordinates show at the bottom of the screen.)

Several federal programs refer to watersheds according to their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). To learn more about your watershed and determine which **HUC** your town or county is located in, see:

<http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/>

## **Water Quality**

### **Water Quality Assessment**

The statewide Water Quality Assessment categorizes waterbody segments that have water quality data available. The Simple Query Tool and interactive mapping tool allow you to search for specific categories, water bodies, pollutant parameters and other information, in whatever combination you choose. **WRIA #26** has thirty-three (33) known Category 5 (impaired) water bodies.

To view the Water Quality Assessment, use the Simple Query Tool.

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wats/WATSQBEHome.asp>

To view the Water Quality Assessment by Category, choose the Category (1 – 5) you are interested in from the drop down box. To view it by Water Resource Inventory Resource Area (WRIA), choose the WRIA number you are interested in from the drop down box.

Use the Interactive Mapping Tool to see a graphic representation of the Water Quality Assessment. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application that helps you find waters you are interested in and information about problems in that water body.

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa/viewer.htm>

## **Domestic Water Supply**

**WRIA #26** has several community water systems that use surface water sources. For further information regarding water supplies, see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm>

## Salmonid Stock Status

Good water quality is important to help salmon survive and thrive. To find out which salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered in a region, see:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/regions/map.htm>

## TMDLs and Other Watershed-Based Plans

For information about Total Maximum Daily Loads (**TMDLs**) in your area, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/>

To learn more about **watershed planning** in Washington State, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html>

For **funding applicants**, other useful links can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/links.html>